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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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### UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Quarantine at Matamoras against yellow-fever-infected districts in Mexico.*

Consul Griffith reports, August 7, as follows: At a conference with the local authorities, August 3, 1903, I was assured that a strict quarantine would be established on all the roads leading into this city and all passengers and baggage from infected districts detained. At a conference held this morning the mayor of the city and the president of the board of health presented positive proof to the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital surgeon and myself that effective measures had been established and were being rigidly enforced.

*Statement of intention of health authorities at San Francisco in regard to the sanitary improvement of Chinatown.*

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue, under date of August 11, 1903:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the note containing a statement of intention with regard to the attitude to be assumed in future by the health authorities having in hand the important work of the sanitary improvement of Chinatown. At a conference held in this office to-day, attended by representatives of the State and municipal health boards and the Service, it was unanimously agreed to adopt this course, and to transmit copies of this note to certain property owners and others concerned. The occasion for this action was the expressed desire of certain property owners in Chinatown to rebuild structures on the site of those destroyed without providing sufficient means for the admission of sunlight and air. Should the desires of the owners be accomplished it would have the effect to render nugatory the effective sanitary work that has been carried out in this district.

[Inclosure.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 18, 1903.*

It has been the experience of the health authorities now engaged in the sanitary improvement of the city of San Francisco that in that particular area bounded by California, Stockton, and Montgomery streets and the bay the most objectionable features coming under our observation have been the filthy accumulation of back areas and the building into said areas from the original structures to the extent that all sunlight and fresh air are prevented from permeating these spaces, and in accordance with this evidence it has been agreed and found necessary by all that all these

mentioned places shall be thoroughly cleansed and structures removed; that in any instance where it is desired to restore these places the following shall be the mode of procedure, namely, at least 1 foot of surface soil shall be removed, a concrete floor placed thereon, upon which may be built a one-story brick structure, with glass roof, properly ventilated, for the purpose of storeroom, kitchens, or toilet, and that no other structure be permitted in said areas except a balcony 5 feet square for the convenience of the different stories for toilet purposes, to be built in accordance with the building and plumbing regulations of this city and county.

It is further agreed that this ruling shall apply to all parts of the city and county of San Francisco when in the opinion of the health authorities the sanitary conditions require it.

MARTIN REGENSBURGER, M. D.,  
*President State Board of Health.*

N. K. FOSTER, M. D.,  
*Secretary State Board of Health.*

RUPERT BLUE,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, P. H. and M. H. S.*

A. P. O'BRIEN, M. D.,  
*Health Officer, City and County of San Francisco.*

WM. C. HASSLER, M. D.,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector Health Department, San Francisco.*

*Summary of work in Chinatown, San Francisco, for week ended  
August 22, 1903.*

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue, at San Francisco, under date of August 24, being record of work in Chinatown for week ended August 22, 1903:

Buildings reinspected, Chinatown .....	126
Rooms inspected .....	1, 147
Buildings inspected, Latin Quarter .....	98
Persons inspected (Chinese, 1,225; white, 518) .....	1, 743
Sick inspected (Chinese) .....	111
Sick seen and prescribed for at Oriental Dispensary .....	8
Dead examined (Chinese) .....	6
Necropsies .....	2
Provisional diagnosis of plague .....	1
Rats bacteriologically examined .....	102
Number showing pest infection .....	0
Places limed and disinfected .....	65
Times streets swept .....	3
Sewers flushed .....	22
Sewers rebaited with rat poison .....	22
Plumbing nuisances abated .....	13
Total number plumbing inspections .....	39

*Report on rats from city wharf and Chinese, Japanese, and Latin  
quarters examined during the week ended August 15, 1903.*

The following is received, under date of August 17, from Assistant Surgeon Currie, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue: Number of rats caught alive, 39; number found dead, 4; number showing lesions of phosphorus poisoning, 0; number showing pest infection (found opposite 415 Green street), 1.